

LARGE ABANDONED COURT HOUSE SITE NEW COURT HOUSE SITE Mayor's Tax Committee Suggests Sale of This and Other City Owned Realty—Cost Was \$12,031,562

The probability of New York City having a great new court house is steadily growing. Following the recommendation of the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen that the site be made to pay a revenue by the erection of buildings for the use of city departments or leased to individuals or corporations, comes another recommendation from the sub-committee on Additional Sources of Revenue of the Mayor's Committee on Taxation and the Investigation of Mortgages Loans urging the abolition of the Court House Board and the abandonment of the court house site.

The abandonment of the proposed court house and its site, which comprises half a hundred properties to the north of the Municipal Building and east of the Hall of Records, which cost the city \$11,651,562 and took from March 1, 1913, to May 6, 1915, to accumulate, is clearly indicated. The Committee on Additional Sources of Revenue says that instead of the erection of a court house on the expensive site which has been purchased two stories should be added to the present court house in City Hall Park, the interior modernized and the exterior of the building renovated. It recognizes the need of additional space for court purposes, however, by suggesting that a new building be erected on the site of the present old Municipal structure used by the City Court. The committee recommends that this building be made to conform architecturally to the present court house, which might be assumed to be retained after the new court house is raised to five stories and another five story building will be erected on the city court house site.

In the second recommendation the committee urges that all unused property of the city be sold if possible, and if not possible at this time that the ground be retained until a sale can be made on a basis whereby taxes are to be paid by the lessee in addition to the rental. The new court house site would be available for this purpose, it is stated, as much as there is no sales market for the property at the present time. It urges that the land be rented on ten or twenty-year lease terms with the privilege extended to the tenant of buying the property at a stipulated price any time during the term.

Their Home at a Deaf Institution That Will Serve Their Children

Continued from First Page.

aria vines in blossom. The ground in the open spaces was fairly carpeted with violets and other wild flowers.

Particularly pleasing were the prevailing tones of architecture. Every home gave evidence of quiet taste as well as of charm and individuality. The Norman cottage style was followed in building the first Fieldston house; then came Elizabethan houses of masonry and half timbered style, and houses in white cement and Colonial houses of wood and brick. No one need fear that some future corner will spoil the landscape by putting up architectural freaks; all plans must be approved by the owners of the estate before they can be put into execution.

My first feeling after getting preliminary view of Fieldston and adding up my impressions was one of surprise in finding a place so ideally right for every detail in a location so perfectly convenient to the city. Further investigation and inquiry developed the information that Fieldston was reached by a railway route as well as by the subway; that Yonkers in three miles north and can be reached by trolley cars; that there are plenty of stores conveniently located on the estate; that there are several excellent private schools close at hand; that the streets are all excellently paved with macadam; that an ancient noble as one of the foremost designers of Colonial houses in this country lives in Fieldston, and that the land in the property is nearly 300 feet above sea level.

Contrary to a popular conception the name of the property is not derived from the words "field stone," one of the stones used in the building, but from another large tract facing the Hudson River, has been owned for a century or more by the Deland family. Long ago the family estate was divided into two parts, one of which was sold to the Deland family and that name has been given the property ever since. There has never been any undue haste in seeking to sell the plots and the sound and careful policy followed has insured a safe future for every owner's interest.

All of these things I learned at the time of my visit to which I gave the entire day. Then I went back to the city and wrote my wife a glowing descriptive letter, which was followed by a telegram, calling her back to look at what I had found. She returned to New York, doubtful whether any place could equal my report of this one, and in this frame of mind she accompanied me to Fieldston.

There was never any doubt of the outcome after she had her first good look around. No plot was so desirable, and less difficult than the one we bought. We have never regretted our choice. When we moved to Fieldston, my wife had just returned from California, where she had spent the winter fruitlessly in the hope of becoming her waning health. Our younger boy had been delicate since a severe illness. In infancy he lay both as strong and well and happy.

When it came time to plan for our new home, we decided after much discussion and study to follow the Elizabethan half timbered style, with the first story in dark, soft toned tapestry brick and the upper story in stucco and chestnut beams. Chestnut is a rapidly disappearing wood, and we feel that we owe a bit of thanks to our architect, Dwight J. Baum, for selecting it for all of the exterior woodwork. Its grain and texture are especially apt to work of this kind, where the finish is in stucco.

The house faces east, and on clear days we can see the waters of Long Island Sound in the distance, when the fog is over and beyond Van Cortlandt Park.

At the south of the house is a large porch, incorporated within the main structural body of the building. On these days, when the war is over and leaded glass windows do not cost so much, we hope to enclose this porch and have a sun room. The floor of the porch is tiled with tapestry brick. The roof above the porch is supported by pillars of stone arranged in Gothic arches and by two heavy square chestnut posts sawed out of logs nearly a foot and a half in diameter.

The Gothic arch as an architectural motif is used throughout the house. Most of the outer doorways are in that form, and the openings from the entrance hall into the living room and dining room are thus spanned.

A long cherished plan of ours had been for a recessed fireplace, or inglenook, and this our architect provided for us. On either side of this little, low walled room, the fireplace, or inglenook, and this our architect provided for us. On either side of this little, low walled room, the fireplace, or inglenook, and this our architect provided for us.

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